

# The American Observer

*A free, virtuous, and enlightened people must know well the great principles and causes on which their happiness depends.—James Monroe*

VOLUME XXII, NUMBER 32

WASHINGTON, D. C.

MAY 11, 1953

## Reading Skill

By Walter E. Myer

**H**OW well do you read? Have you ever tested yourself to determine the answer to this question? Suppose you try it. Sit down and read one of the long articles in this paper. Read it through without stopping. Then close the paper, and think through the problems considered in the article. Do you have the whole thing well in mind? Did you follow the discussion with concentrated attention? Does the outline of it stand out in your memory? Or is it all quite hazy?

If the subject covered is dim and indistinct as you try to recall the contents, something is wrong. Find out what it is. Perhaps your mind wandered as you read. That frequently happens when one has not trained himself to be a good reader. You may have read several paragraphs without knowing what you were reading. The words may have been seen, but they may not have registered with you. You may have been thinking of something else. That is a mark of poor reading, but it is nothing at all unusual. Or you may not have understood some of the words.

Whatever is wrong with your reading, it should be corrected. If your wits go wool-gathering when you read, it may be because you read too slowly. Take out your watch and time yourself while you read half a column or so under conditions of close application and fixed attention. Find out how rapidly you read when your mind is really fixed on your reading. Then keep your watch before you. Figure out how long it should take you to read one of the articles, and try to hold to the schedule.

You may think that your thoughts will scatter all the more if you read rapidly, but usually that is not the case. If you set yourself to rapid reading, you are applying yourself to the task. You are alert, energetic. Ideas keep flowing in as you proceed. There is less likelihood of your getting off the track, just as there is less likelihood that a bicyclist will get off the track if he goes at a good speed than if he travels at a snail's pace.



Walter E. Myer

See that you understand the meanings of all the words and terms that you come across. Use your dictionary freely. And buckle down to your task. Be attentive, energetic, alert. Watch for results. Test yourself frequently. Then after a while you may expect to be reading well—using the printed page effectively.

In order not to hold yourself up when you first read an article, don't take time to check in the dictionary on each word that you do not know. Try to sense the meaning of unfamiliar words according to the way they fit into the sentence. But check these with a pencil or a pen as you go along; then, after you finish the article, look them up in the dictionary and learn what they mean. In this way, you will be constantly increasing your vocabulary without interrupting your concentration during the time of reading.



QUEEN ELIZABETH II of Great Britain wears a small diadem, or crown, of diamonds and pearls here. A much more elaborate crown will be placed on her head at the coronation ceremony next June. The coronation crown is made of gold, rubies, emeralds, sapphires—as well as diamonds and pearls.

## British Coronation

**Queen Elizabeth's Country Has Gone Through Serious Difficulties, but Conditions Are Now Improving**

**B**ITAIN'S Queen Elizabeth II, who is to receive her crown on June 2, holds a peculiar position. Despite her great prestige, she has, as we all know, comparatively little control over the government that operates in her name. Britain long ago took policy-making out of the monarch's hands, and gave this job to elected representatives of the people.

As a matter of form, the Queen's signature is still required on all acts of Parliament before they can become law, but tradition prohibits her from refusing to sign any of these measures. She has no such veto over legislation as the President of the United States possesses. The monarch is expected to steer clear of politics. The real manager of Britain's government is the Prime Minister—the leader of the majority in Parliament.

These facts do not mean that the ruler is without influence upon her nation's governmental affairs. Elizabeth works hard to keep herself informed on major public problems. She talks frequently with Prime Minister Churchill and other officials, and her views naturally receive careful consideration.

But her main job is to be a living emblem of unity for the British people and the Commonwealth of Nations.

The monarch's separation from politics puts her in a good position to serve this purpose. So long as she stays out of partisan conflicts and makes no political enemies, she is a person around whom the entire nation can rally.

For the Commonwealth of Nations she is also the symbol that helps bind together a family of free countries. Eight independent Commonwealth lands—Britain, Canada, and others—work together in a voluntary association headed officially by the British monarch.

Elizabeth symbolizes Britain's memories of the past and its hopes for the future. A descendant of earlier queens and kings, she has been trained since childhood for her present job, and she in turn is even now beginning to prepare her small son for the probably distant time when he will take up a monarch's duties.

Her coronation, on June 2, will in a sense represent the way in which Britain and the Commonwealth go through constant changes and yet maintain their ties with the past. In that ceremony, a modern young wife and mother will receive the historic

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## Social Security Program Studied

**Changes Are Expected in Laws Pertaining to Assistance for Elderly People**

**M**ORE than 100 bills dealing with social security are now under study by congressional committees. Though final action by the lawmakers is not expected right away, it seems likely that changes will be made within the near future in our social security system.

When we speak of social security, we refer to various government programs that help provide millions of individuals and families with regular, monthly income. These programs include old-age retirement insurance, unemployment insurance, help for the needy aged, aid for needy children, and assistance for the blind and disabled. The federal government's part in these programs is carried out by the new Department of Health, Education, and Welfare under the direction of Mrs. Oveta Culp Hobby.

Most of the bills that have been introduced in Congress pertain to old-age retirement. This is the only part of the social security program that is operated solely by the federal government. (The other phases are operated by the states, with the federal government cooperating and contributing funds.) Let us see how the old-age retirement program works in the case of an imaginary person whom we shall call Thomas Altman.

After working for many years in a machine shop, Mr. Altman decides to retire. He is now 65, the age at which one becomes eligible for an old-age pension.

Ever since 1935 when the social security program started, a small sum has been deducted from Mr. Altman's pay check. That sum has been matched by his employer. At the time of his retirement, Mr. Altman was paying

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MRS. SECRETARY Oveta Culp Hobby of the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare—new U. S. Cabinet post

# Social Security

(Concluded from page 1)

1½ per cent of the \$3,600 he earned for the year, and his employer was paying an equal amount. Therefore, each was paying \$54 a year, a sum which was forwarded to the U. S. Treasury. (The government makes no collections from earnings above \$3,600.)

These payments form the basis of Mr. Altman's pension. The size of each pension varies, depending on the income of the worker during the time that he was paying a tax on his earnings. Mr. Altman will receive the maximum pension—\$85 a month—since he was earning \$3,600 a year during the time he paid into the fund. With smaller earnings, he would have received a smaller pension. The minimum pension is \$25 a month.

Mr. Altman's wife is 63 years old. When she reaches 65, Mr. Altman's pension will be increased by half—that is, by \$42.50. If Mr. Altman dies, his widow will receive three-fourths of his pension—about \$64 a month—when she reaches 65.

This is the way that the old-age retirement program works in the case of one individual. Though Mr. Altman's pension is larger than that of the average retired worker, his case is otherwise quite typical.

Today about 3.3 million Americans of 65 and above benefit by the program, which costs about 2.2 billion dollars a year. As time goes on, these figures are expected to rise, for the number of people over 65—now about 13½ million—is on the increase. Improved medical skills and better nutrition are among the reasons for a lengthening life span in the United States. Thus, the problem of providing elderly people with income to meet their needs is bound to become even more pressing in the future.

At present, some 47 million jobs are covered under the old-age retirement program. About 14 million workers are not included in the system. Among the latter are farmers operating their own farms and such professional men as doctors, lawyers, and clergymen.

As we mentioned earlier, there are various other programs to help individuals and families. One of these, the federal-state program for the needy aged, also involves elderly people. Let us see how this program works in the case of an imaginary man whom we shall call John Elder.

Now in his latter sixties, John Elder was a farmer for many years. Since farmers are not included in the old-age retirement program, Mr. Elder cannot receive a pension. He must depend on savings, on what he can earn, and on any help he may acquire from other sources in his old age.

Mr. Elder has been seriously ill, though. He is not strong enough to work, and medical expenses have just about used up his savings.

It is for such persons that the federal-state program of assistance to the needy aged has been devised. The states run the program, but the federal government helps foot the bill. The federal government pays 80 per cent of the first \$25 and half of the next \$30 in monthly aid to a needy person. The states pay the rest, and if they want to make larger payments, they must stand the additional cost themselves. Consequently, these payments vary from state to state.

Local officials investigate John Elder, and find that he deserves aid. He is granted a certain sum each month. Average monthly payments to the needy aged run from a little over \$24 in Mississippi to slightly more than \$84 in Colorado.

Today about 2.7 million Americans receive assistance under this program, which costs about 1½ billion dollars a year. The expense is about equally divided between the states and the federal government.

These are the two big ways in which social security helps the aged. Here, in a nutshell, are the differences in the two approaches:

In the old-age retirement program, pensions go to workers, regardless of their financial needs, who have paid a special tax on their earnings. The plan works like an insurance policy which starts paying off at age of 65.

of the bills before Congress have this aim. Both political parties pledged in the last election campaign to bring many more workers under the old-age retirement system. If this idea is approved, the additional workers will start paying a special tax on their earnings, and will, at the age of 65, become eligible for a pension.

*How about those who are already 65 and are not eligible for pensions? Should they be granted pensions, too?*

Some, who want far-reaching changes in the present setup, argue that everyone who is 65 be given a pension right away, whether taxes were paid on earnings or not. They say:

"People not eligible for old-age pensions need help as much as do those who receive pensions. The proper thing is to put everyone who is 65 or

be paid to the aged. This sum, they say, would partly take care of living expenses, while individuals could provide additional income through savings, earnings, or personal insurance. Moreover, this program, it is said, would not put an undue strain on the treasury.

At the other extreme are those who think that pensions should be set at a far higher level where they would provide a standard of living not much below that enjoyed by people during their working years. It is unfair and tragic, it is argued, for an individual in his declining years to have to lower his living standards a great deal.

*Should the size of a pension be tied to previous earnings?*

At present, the size of a pension is, as we have pointed out, tied to previous earnings. Some oppose this idea. They say:

"People who have the largest incomes during their working years receive the largest pensions, yet they are the ones who should be able to lay aside the most savings. On the other hand, those who have small incomes while they work, and can save little or nothing, get the smallest pensions. This situation doesn't make sense."

Those who favor the present approach say: "Those who had larger incomes during their working days had to pay more into the retirement fund. Therefore, they should get more back. It is the only fair method, and it is the basis upon which private insurance systems are set up."

*Should retired workers be allowed to earn more?*

A retired worker may take a job, if he does not earn too much, and get his monthly old-age pension as well. He may earn as much as \$75 a month at any job he can get until he is 75. (After he is 75, a retired worker can earn beyond the \$75 limit and still receive his old-age pension.)

When the social security law was passed in 1935, it was a time of large-scale unemployment. The idea of restricting a retired worker's earnings was to encourage older people not to work, so there would be more jobs for younger men and women. Many now oppose the earnings limit, saying:

"Inflation has pushed prices upward, and it has particularly harmed elderly people who were depending on savings and pensions. Many retired workers would like to work—and need to do so—to supplement their old-age pension. Today jobs are plentiful, and there is a shortage of workers in many fields. Therefore, the reasons that existed for this restriction in 1935 no longer prevail. Retired workers should be allowed to earn more than \$75 a month and draw pensions."

As these words are written, little opposition seems to have developed toward this latter proposal. A number of bills have been introduced that would push the \$75 limit upward.

There are some circumstances, it should be noted, that permit a retired worker to earn as much as he can get, even beyond the \$75 limit. If a retired worker takes a job which is not covered under the social security system, no limit is placed on his earnings.

For example, a man might work in a factory—covered by social security—until he is 65. He could then retire and get his monthly check. He could, in addition, operate a farm—which is not under social security. He might make several thousand dollars there, yet still draw an old-age pension.



THE LIST of Americans getting government pensions is growing longer

It is run by the federal government.

In the federal-state program for the needy aged, payments are made as gifts and are carried out strictly on the basis of need. States run the program, but the federal government helps pay for it.

As the number of bills introduced into Congress indicates, there is a good deal of dissatisfaction over our present social security programs. There is not too much agreement, though, on what should be done to remedy the situation. The bills now under study represent a wide variety of approaches, and some would bring about sweeping changes. However, most of them deal with a number of basic questions, some of which follow.

*Should all workers be covered by the old-age retirement program?*

As we have pointed out, only those who have paid a tax on their earnings over a period of time are today eligible to receive old-age pensions. Farmers and many professional men have never been brought into the system.

Today there is a widespread feeling that workers not now in the system should be brought under it. Several

over under the pension program. Otherwise many will need help from the federal-state program for the needy aged. Since most elderly people need aid in one form or another, it might as well come from a single source. Then the program of assistance to the needy aged could be abolished, eliminating much bookkeeping and red tape."

Others feel it would be unwise to make everyone over 65 eligible for old-age pensions now. They argue:

"To pay pensions to those who have not contributed to the retirement fund would be unfair to those who have had their earnings taxed for years for this purpose. Moreover, it would put a tremendous strain on the fund, which might be used up in a few years. While it is a good idea to bring others under the pension program, they should expect to make payments into the fund before drawing benefits."

*How large should old-age pensions be?*

There are all ranges of opinion on this question. At one extreme are those who feel that a small pension—perhaps \$25 or \$35 a month—should



## Readers Say—

I greatly enjoy all articles that appear in your paper. However, I'd like to see more stories dealing with the activities of 4-H Clubs. It is my belief that the Clubs' farm exchange programs are doing a wonderful job of promoting international understanding.

KAY BUTTON,  
Riceville, Iowa

I think the Voice of America should be congratulated on the splendid work it has been doing. It brings the hope of freedom to the darkest corners of the globe.

NANCY SWICKER,  
Onsted, Michigan

It would be foolish and shortsighted of us not to ally ourselves with Marshal Tito's Yugoslavia. Every bit of support we can get against Russia helps. We should not reject an alliance with Tito just because he is a Red. It is true that we are opposed to the ideas of communism, but our big and dangerous enemy is Russia and the communism directed by her. We must get all the allies we can to fight that menace.

JOHN STRACHAN,  
Chicago, Illinois

I believe that we should be very cautious in our dealings with Yugoslavia. It's true that Marshal Tito has broken away from Russia, but he is still a communist leader. Communism goes against all we stand for. Therefore, an alliance between democratic nations and a communist country cannot be a durable one.

HOWARD LAHLUM,  
Valley City, North Dakota

I agree with those people who think we should be making more military goods than we are now turning out. Fighter



planes, radar equipment, and other weapons are more important just now than new TV sets or shiny cars.

BARBARA HASH,  
Sherman, Texas

It seems to me that it is wrong not to let the people of the District of Columbia run their own government. I don't see why the nation's capital should be considered to be different from any other big city. Its people have problems similar to those of citizens in other communities. They ought to have the same rights other city dwellers have in trying to solve these problems.

JANET COFFEY,  
Avon, Virginia

Not long ago, a student said that we are making enemies by sending aid abroad. It is true that some nations resent aid from us if we require them to fulfill a lot of conditions before we give them help. Most nations, though, are glad to get assistance from us, and are standing beside us as friends.

GAY-STORY HAMILTON,  
Norwich, Connecticut

Our government expenditures are too high. One way we can bring down these costs is to reduce foreign aid. Particularly since our assistance to foreign countries doesn't seem to be doing much good. We haven't won many overseas friends with our dollars in past years.

RONALD E. REUMUTH,  
Corpus Christi, Texas



MANY SOLDIERS crippled in war are learning to walk again at hospitals that the Veterans' Administration maintains throughout the country

### SERVING THE NATION

## The Veterans' Administration

*This is the fifteenth in a series of special features on important government offices and the men and women who run them. This week's article deals with the Veterans' Administration and its director, Carl Gray.*

Carl Gray was born 64 years ago in Wichita, Kansas. His father was a railroad man who worked his way up from a job as station sweeper to become president of the Union Pacific Railway. Young Gray, too, decided to take up railroading as a career.

After studying at the University of Illinois, Gray went to work for the St. Louis-San Francisco Railway as a yard clerk. By 1914, he had become an assistant manager of that line.

World War I caught up with Gray in 1917. Because of his knowledge of transportation problems, the U. S. Army asked him to help direct plans for moving men and weapons to where they were needed for the war effort.

After the war was over, Gray worked for several big firms, including Montgomery, Ward & Company. He was manager of that business organization. He later went back to railroading and became vice president of the Chicago and North Western Railway in 1937.

At the outbreak of World War II, Gray again answered the call to duty. He helped run the armed forces' vital rail supply lines in North Africa, Italy, and elsewhere. He and his men finished rebuilding a bombed-out railway line to Rome just a month after Allied

troops first entered that city. When the first train load of badly needed coal arrived in Rome after it was freed, Gray was at the throttle of the train, clanging the engine's bell to celebrate the event.

At war's end, Gray returned to the Chicago and North Western Railway as vice president. Then, in 1947, he retired from railroading to become head of the Veterans' Administration.

As chief of the VA, Gray has a big job on his hands. His agency, set up in 1930, looks after the interests of some 20 million men and women who have served in the nation's armed forces at one time or another. It has offices and special centers in communities across the nation to help ex-servicemen get GI benefits provided by Congress.

All told, the VA has about 176,000 men and women on its payroll. This includes more than 7,500 doctors, and many thousands of nurses and other medical workers. It also includes other trained persons who help war-scarred veterans get a new start in life.

The agency runs approximately 160 or more hospitals scattered over the country. On an average, 100,000 veterans are given treatment in these hospitals every month. Moreover, an additional 150,000 or more ex-GI's get some medical care in other VA centers.

The Veterans' Administration supervises programs to help physically handicapped ex-servicemen prepare themselves for paying jobs. The agency also provides all qualified veterans, who apply for the service, a chance to learn a trade or to get additional schooling. There are now about 112,000 former servicemen who are going to school or learning a trade under this program. Several millions of veterans have taken advantage of these educational benefits since the first GI Bill of Rights was passed in 1944.

If ex-GI's want to buy a home, a farm, or start a business of their own, the VA comes to their assistance. The agency encourages banks or other loan offices to lend money to former servicemen for worthwhile projects at low interest rates. The Veterans' Administration takes the responsibility for paying off the loan if, for any reason, it is not repaid.



CARL GRAY, JR., is Administrator of Veterans' Affairs

## SPORTS

CRICKET is considered the national game of the English. An ancient sport dating back to the 12th or 13th centuries, it may have been a forerunner of our game of baseball.

Cricket is played on a large, smooth field by two 11-man teams. One team bats while the other takes the field. The pitcher—or "bowler"—tries to throw the ball, which is slightly smaller than a baseball, past the batsman and knock down the "wicket" behind him. If he does this, the batter is out.

The batter tries to protect the wicket—a wooden framework 27 inches high and 9 inches wide—by hitting the ball to any part of the field with a paddle-shaped bat. The farther he hits the ball, the more runs he can score. As in baseball, the team which gets the greater number of runs is the winner.

To an American accustomed to baseball, cricket may seem confusing in certain respects. For example, the batter may hit the ball in any direction—even behind him. Instead of having three bases and a home plate, cricket has two wickets between which all the running takes place when the ball is hit. When the batter runs from one wicket to another, he scores a run. One player may continue to bat until he is put out. A match usually lasts for several days, and a good player can make as many as 100 runs in a single turn at bat.

Soccer is another highly popular game in Britain. Most Americans are familiar with this sport, though in this country it is not played so widely as football. The two teams



IN ENGLAND, the fans follow cricket very much as Americans keep up on baseball

try to move an inflated ball, mostly by kicking it, into the opponent's goal. Only the men protecting the goals may touch the ball with their hands.

In Britain nearly every little town has its own soccer team. There are also intersectional matches among teams representing England, Scotland, and Wales. One of these matches between England and Scotland attracted a crowd of about 150,000 people.

The British also like golf and tennis. In fact, both of these games originated in Britain. Golf was first played in Scotland, while tennis in one form or another has been played in England for centuries. The game that we play on lawns and outdoor courts was invented by a British army officer in the 1870's.

# The Story of the Week



**UPWARDS**, and easily, too. Workmen can be lifted 44 feet high and 30 feet away from the truck to clear trees from power lines, rescue people from buildings, or place television cameras above crowds. The new lift was demonstrated recently in Chicago, Illinois. Makers are the Maxwell Equipment Co., Milford, Connecticut.

## UN's Scorecard

The great meeting hall of the United Nations General Assembly in New York City is quiet. Assembly delegates have left the building to go home or to take care of other business for the countries they represent. The next meeting of the UN group is scheduled for the fall—unless events in Korea call for an earlier assembly session.

Before adjourning late last month, the General Assembly decided to keep itself ready for a quick return to UN headquarters if (1) the United Nations and communist truce negotiators in Korea reach an agreement to end the fighting there; or (2) if peace talks break down altogether. If a Korean truce is made, the assembly wants to get started on the job of working out Korea's future as a peaceful nation. If peace talks bog down, the world body hopes to seek new ways to bring about peace in the Far Eastern land.

Besides its discussion of the Korean war, the assembly took action on these and other matters since its meeting first opened last October:

1. The UN group ordered a check into repeated Soviet charges that the Allies used germ warfare in Korea. The United States had been asking for such a probe for some time. Until the assembly's latest action, though, Russia had blocked the idea of letting other nations look into the Red charges.

2. The assembly asked all UN members to help Burma get rid of Chinese Nationalist troops on her soil.

3. An agreement was reached on a new UN Secretary-General—Swedish Dag Hammarskjöld was chosen for the job.

## NATO Plans

This year, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization members will try to add 1,000 new planes and a number of additional troops to their defenses. At the same time, NATO countries will sharpen the fighting quality of

their existing military forces. That is what Secretary of State John Foster Dulles recently told Congress. The lawmakers are now studying the question of aid to our overseas allies.

NATO's 1953 goals were reached at Paris meetings, late last month, of top officials representing the 14 Atlantic treaty nations. The defense group's new plans call for a force of 56 troop divisions and some 5,000 warplanes by the end of this year. At present, NATO has an estimated strength of 50 divisions and about 4,000 aircraft. (Divisions vary in size. At full strength, a division may have up to 18,000 men.)

Among other decisions made at the Paris meetings, Allied leaders (1) signed contracts for the production of jet planes by the U. S., Britain, and France; and (2) agreed on a 770-million dollar program for building additional air fields and communications on the soil of NATO countries in Europe.

## Britain's Prime Minister

Britain's citizens are wondering whether or not Prime Minister Winston Churchill will soon step down as leader of his country. Some of Churchill's close friends have indicated that the 78-year-old Prime Minister may soon quit his high office to make way for a younger man. The aging British leader, it is said, may make an announcement on this matter after next month's coronation of Queen Elizabeth II.

Churchill reached the peak of his remarkable career during World War II. He led Britain through the difficult and dark years of that conflict. His people will never forget how he inspired them at a time when German bombs rained on British cities and England was dangerously threatened by military invasion. With bulldog determination, Churchill encouraged his people to keep up the fight against the enemy.

In 1945, at the war's end, Churchill made a bid for re-election as Britain's leader. He lost. A new Labor government headed by Clement Attlee was voted into power. Nevertheless, Churchill continued to be active in politics as Conservative Party opposition leader. Then, in October, 1951, he

again became Prime Minister. Not long ago, he received one of Britain's highest honors for public service—he was granted a royal title by Queen Elizabeth II.

Though Churchill is best known as a political leader, he started out as a soldier and writer. After finishing his military training, he fought for his country in India, Africa, and elsewhere. Then, in the early 1900's, he entered politics and became a member of Parliament in his second try for a legislative office. He has held many important posts in the British government since that time.

## Presidential Yacht

Twice a week, the Presidential yacht *Williamsburg* leaves the nation's capital for near-by points in Virginia and Maryland. The craft takes hospitalized GI's and ex-servicemen on special one-day cruises along the Potomac River.

The vessel carries about 50 GI's and veterans on each trip. Its two decks, comfortable lounges, and television sets help make the cruise a pleasant one for its special guests. Approximately 150 Navy crewmen man the yacht.

President Dwight Eisenhower has set the *Williamsburg* aside for use by war-wounded servicemen and veterans until the end of next month. After June 30, the yacht is to be put into dry dock and out of service for an indefinite time.

The *Williamsburg*, formerly named the *Aras*, was once a private yacht. During World War II, Uncle Sam asked its former owner to sell the craft to the Navy for war duty. The vessel was used as a patrol ship in the Atlantic. After the war, it was put into service as the Presidential yacht. It took the place of another craft once used by Chief Executives, the *Potomac*.

## Armed Forces Day

Next Saturday, May 16, our nation's Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marine Corps will be on parade. This is a special opportunity for us to learn more about the military team which has the all-important task of defending the country. (For a review of



**ANGELA FALLS** in Venezuela is 3,212 feet high and is probably the highest in the world

our present armed strength see April 27 issue of this paper.)

People living in cities across the nation can see, next Saturday, some of the equipment which the armed forces are using today. In New York City, for instance, our huge 85-ton cannon capable of firing atomic shells will be on parade. In other communities, various new weapons, including fast-flying jet planes, will be on display.

## Letter on "Crusade"

Some time ago, we printed an article on the Crusade for Freedom. We have a letter from a student in Wisconsin who has some meaningful comments to make concerning the Crusade. She writes as follows:

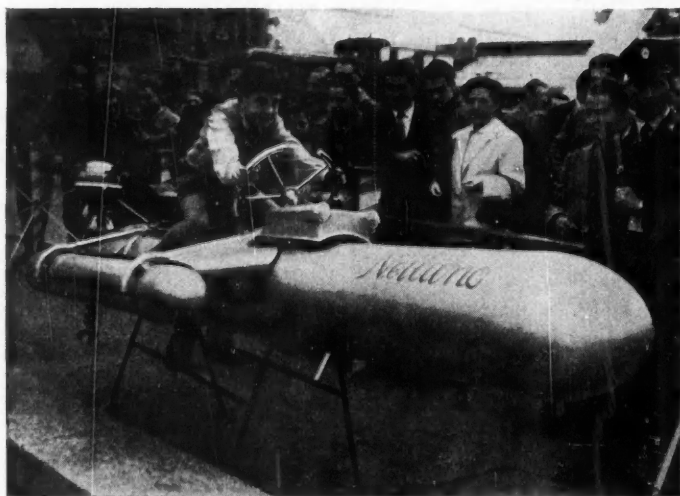
"I have a personal interest in keeping the Crusade for Freedom's truth broadcasts into Iron Curtain countries on the air. You see, my grandmother and a number of my uncles and their families are in Red Czechoslovakia. We do not get many letters from them, and most of those we do get are opened by Czech censors. But sometimes, at great risk to himself, one of my uncles sneaks a letter through the censors.

"In one of these letters, my uncle said that he and his entire family listen to Radio Free Europe (a station run by the Crusade for Freedom). All who listen to these programs, he wrote, are filled with new hope that freedom may someday return to Czechoslovakia. I hope all Americans will contribute what they can to the Crusade, so it can continue its work.

"Please withhold my name from this letter for the protection of my relatives who live behind the Iron Curtain."

## New "Loyalty" Program

All persons who go to work for Uncle Sam, as we know, must meet certain qualifications for their jobs. In addition, individuals who work in government offices where defense problems,



**LET'S SCOOT OVER THE SEA.** This engine-powered, wave-skimming scooter is something new from Italy. The price—in Italy—is quoted at about \$380.



foreign affairs, or other confidential matters are handled, must pass strict loyalty tests.

A system for checking into the trustworthiness of federal employees has been in effect for a number of years now. Under this program, a special Civil Service Loyalty Review Board has the final say on whether or not any government worker should be fired on grounds of disloyalty.

On the 27th of this month, a number of changes will be made in the government's personnel program. The changes are provided for in a new order recently issued by President Dwight Eisenhower.

As before, each agency head will be responsible for the trustworthiness of the workers under him. Under the new plan, though, the chief of an agency and a panel of other government officials have the final say on whether or not an employee ought to be fired for reasons of disloyalty. The Civil Service Loyalty Review Board, which now has the last word on such matters, is to be abolished.

Moreover, employees in all government agencies—those who work with confidential matters as well as others—will be subject to a loyalty check-up. A federal employee who is found guilty of "any behavior, activities or associations which tend to show the individual is not reliable or trustworthy" may be fired from his job.

### Speaking Champion

The Senate has a new speaking champion. He is Senator Wayne Morse, an Independent from Oregon. Morse recently broke all past speaking records in the upper house by holding the floor for 22 hours and 26 minutes. He tried to block the passage of a measure which provides that the individual states, rather than the federal government, shall have ownership of the nation's offshore oil deposits.

The device of trying to "talk a bill to death" (a filibuster) can be used only in the Senate, because House rules limit debate. There are no im-



MODERN BUS STATION in Helsinki, Finland's capital. You can travel northward from here nearly 700 miles, through forests and past lovely lakes, to the Arctic Circle.

portant curbs on speaking time in the upper chamber, unless its members adopt a special rule, known as "closure," to shut off lengthy speeches. Two-thirds of all 96 senators must vote "yes" on such a rule before it can take effect.

Up until the Oregon lawmaker set a new record, the longest speech in the Senate's official record was that of Wisconsin's Senator Robert LaFollette. In 1908, LaFollette spoke for 18 hours and 23 minutes in an effort to kill a proposal dealing with certain currency changes.

### Budget Debate

One of the biggest topics of discussion on Capitol Hill just now has to do with the nation's budget for the

fiscal, or bookkeeping year, starting next July 1. The lawmakers are going over President Dwight Eisenhower's new 64½-billion-dollar budget for the coming year.

Last January, before stepping down as Chief Executive, former President Harry Truman suggested nearly 73 billion dollars in new expenditures for defense, foreign aid, and for other costs of running the government. President Eisenhower wants the legislators to cut that amount by some 8½ billion dollars. The Chief Executive is also suggesting a number of changes in our defense setup which, he says, will help make some of the proposed savings possible.

A number of congressmen support Eisenhower's views on the budget. They contend:

"Government expenditures must be reduced because the dangerous climb of our public debt has to be halted. Even if the President's proposed budget cuts are adopted, Uncle Sam still won't be able to make ends meet this year. Actually, important cutbacks in expenses can be made by trimming the 'fat' off defense and foreign programs suggested by Truman. This would not weaken our defenses."

Critics of the Chief Executive's proposed budget cuts have this to say: "Most of the President's suggested reductions in expenditures are to be made in our home defenses and in our overseas military aid plans. Both these programs are vital to our security. By cutting expenditures in these two fields, we might weaken ourselves and our allies to a dangerous degree. We should not invite disaster just to save a few billion dollars."

### Next Week

Unless news developments interfere, our major foreign article next week will be on Argentina. The leading domestic article will deal with controversial issues which have arisen over the Fifth Amendment to the Constitution—the one which protects an individual from testifying against himself.

## Study Guide

### Social Security

1. To what does the term "social security" refer?
2. Tell how the old-age retirement program works.
3. Describe the workings of the federal-state program for aid to the needy aged.
4. Why is the problem of providing elderly people with income to meet their needs bound to be more pressing in the future?
5. What people would be brought under the old-age retirement system by bills now before Congress?
6. Give the pros and cons on the question of granting all people 65 and over pensions right away.
7. What differences of opinion exist regarding the size of pensions?
8. Under what conditions may a retired worker, now drawing an old-age pension, be allowed to take a job?

### Discussion

1. Which program do you think is more satisfactory in assisting elderly people—the old-age retirement system, or the federal-state program for aid to the needy aged? Why?
2. What changes do you recommend in our social security programs to assist the aged? Explain.

### Britain

1. Who is the real leader of the British government?
2. Briefly describe Queen Elizabeth's position in Britain and in the Commonwealth of Nations.
3. Give examples of Britain's recent tax reductions. How long has it been since the last previous tax reduction was made in that nation?
4. Name some of the foods that have lately been freed from rationing in Britain.
5. List a number of the products that Britain must obtain largely from other countries.
6. In earlier years, how did the British earn money to pay for these foreign products? Explain how their foreign earning power declined.
7. How did Britain manage to improve her economic situation after World War II?
8. Give some causes of friction, and some common interests, between Britain and the United States.

### Discussion

1. Do you think it should be made relatively easy for Britain to sell her goods in this country, or relatively hard? Explain your position.
2. Do you feel that it is of much importance to us whether Britain is strong or weak? Explain your position.

### Miscellaneous

1. Do you feel that the UN General Assembly accomplished anything worthwhile at its latest session?
2. How many war planes are now ready for NATO use?
3. How is the Presidential yacht *Williamsburg* now being used?
4. What is the purpose of Armed Forces Day?
5. Who has the longest talking record in the U. S. Senate?
6. What change has been made in the government's loyalty program?

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- "Pay-As-You-Go Social Security," *U. S. News & World Report*, December 5, 1952. How many businessmen feel about the old-age pension system.
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## THE LIGHTER SIDE

Mr. Groucho: "Why isn't my dinner ready?"

Mrs. Groucho: "I've been downtown bargain hunting all afternoon."

Mr. Groucho: "Huh! Looking for something for nothing, I presume."

Mrs. Groucho: "Yes, looking for a birthday present for you."

★

Mess Sergeant: "What's the idea of taking toast out of the mess hall?"

Private: "I wanted to make some charcoal sketches, sir."



FRANK O'NEAL IN SATURDAY EVENING POST  
"Honey! You won't!"

Lawyer Smith, in cross-examining a young doctor on the witness stand, asked him a number of questions in the effort to reveal his medical incompetence. Among the questions was this one:

"If your learned counsel, Mr. Reid, and I should bang our heads together, would we get concussion of the brain?"

The young physician calmly replied:

"Mr. Reid might."

★

A strip of green concrete in place of grass has been laid down the middle of an eastern city's boulevard. A thing like this makes a dandelion stop and think.

★

Teacher: "Your recitation reminds me of Quebec."

Student: "How's that?"

Teacher: "It's built on a bluff."

★

The Hollywood film director who had his thoughts taken up with other matters returned to the studio for an interview with a noted author.

The director sat down and absently picked up what he thought was a manuscript, but what, in reality, was the telephone directory. This he studied gravely for some moments before saying: "You know, this isn't a bad tale, but you'll have to cut down the number of characters."

# British Coronation

(Concluded from page 1)

British crown in a colorful ritual which dates from medieval times.

As Britishers observe this ancient rite, they can recall the fact that their country has weathered a great many stormy periods of world history. Today's difficulties may be comparatively new, but tackling problems of one kind or another is no unusual experience for the British nation.

Conditions have been especially difficult for Britain during the last several years. There has been the tremendous task of rebuilding after the strains and the destruction caused by World War II. There are some complicated economic problems, made worse by present defense burdens.

This year, however, the British feel more cheerful and optimistic than they have felt for some time previously. Interest in the coronation plans may be partly responsible for this, but there are other reasons as well.

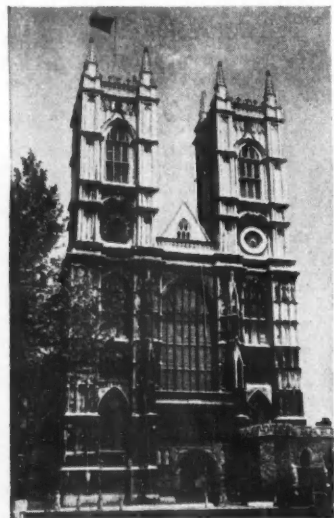
## Lower Taxes

The Churchill government recently announced a substantial reduction in the heavy tax load that the British people carry. Until now, buyers have been paying a tax equal to 100 per cent of the regular price when purchasing cosmetics, mirrors, jewelry, electric heaters, and various other items. The levy on these articles is being reduced to 75 per cent.

The purchase tax on automobiles, radio and TV sets, refrigerators, vacuum cleaners, and washing machines was formerly two-thirds of the regular price. It is being reduced to a half. People buying tickets for cricket matches and amateur sports events need no longer pay any entertainment tax. Levies on incomes are reduced.

This year sees the first British budget since World War II in which no new taxes or tax increases are proposed, and the first in 24 years to call for a reduction.

Even under their new rates, Britishers carry a very heavy tax burden. Their national taxes are still higher than ours, though state and local levies may make our totals higher—at least in some areas and for some groups of taxpayers.



WESTMINSTER ABBEY in London where Queen Elizabeth will be crowned. The famous church has been the traditional site for coronation ceremonies since the days of William the Conqueror—over 800 years ago.

Britain's severe governmental restrictions on purchases of food—first imposed because of World War II and then maintained because of the nation's economic troubles—are being eased considerably. Rationing of eggs ended on March 26. Tea, highly important to British morale, has been available without restriction since last October. Ham is no longer rationed.

Sugar is still rationed, though the amount available to each family is being increased this month. Each person is limited to about half a dozen slices of bacon per week.

Life probably is more pleasant in Britain now than at any previous time since World War II though difficulties still exist.

Britain's central economic problem is that she falls far short of producing, inside her own boundaries, enough food and raw materials to fill the needs of her 50 million people. This population, nearly a third as large as our own, lives in an area somewhat smaller than that of Oregon or of Wyoming.

A booklet published by the London government in 1951 declared: "Britain can grow only about half her own food. Other than coal... she has very few of the supplies of raw materials needed by modern industry. All her rubber, cotton, and tobacco, and nine-tenths of her wool must come from abroad. [So must virtually all her supplies of] zinc, tin, copper, lead, aluminum... From abroad come all her tea, coffee, and citrus fruits, nearly 90 per cent of her fats, nearly 80 per cent of her sugar, 75 per cent of her cheese, 70 per cent of her wheat and flour, and just over 50 per cent of meat and bacon."

Through the years, Britain has had various ways of earning money to pay for such materials. Her people have owned plantations, railroads, oil industries, and other enterprises in distant parts of the world. These have brought in revenue to help pay for British imports. All over the globe, her merchant ships have earned foreign money by carrying cargo for other nations. Also, British mills and factories have turned out manufactured items for sale abroad.

Britain was, for various reasons, running into financial troubles even before World War II, and then that conflict dealt her an almost fatal blow. To help finance the war effort, her people were required to sell  $4\frac{1}{2}$  billion dollars' worth of their profitable holdings in distant lands. Enemy bombs and torpedoes sent at least half of the British merchant fleet to the bottom of the sea. Many factories were wrecked by air raids. Others, lacking a normal supply of new equipment and repairs, were in a run-down condition by the time the war ended.

In short, World War II caused a tremendous loss in Britain's earning power. More recently, Britain has lost the rich Iranian oil industry as a source of overseas income. Her oil holdings in Iran have been seized by the government of that country.

For some time after World War II, Britain had to rely heavily upon American financial aid to cover the cost of her imports. But she also took steps to become self-supporting once again. Factory equipment and raw materials, furnished by the United States, were used for boosting the output of British manufactured goods.



GREAT BRITAIN, containing England, Scotland, and Wales, is the largest island in Europe and the eighth largest in the world. It and Northern Ireland together make up the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

These British manufactured products were reserved largely for sale in foreign lands. In 1951, Britain exported half of all the trucks, steam locomotives, and farm machinery that her factories produced. So as to have as much as possible for sale abroad, Britain discouraged her own people from buying various types of consumers' goods. That is one of the reasons for the high purchase taxes—now somewhat reduced—that were levied on automobiles, radios, and many other articles.

While striving to increase her foreign sales, Britain has sought to import only the bare necessities. That is why foods and various other items which must be purchased from abroad have been rationed.

## Considerable Success

Coronation Day dawns on a more prosperous Britain than existed several years ago. The island nation has met with considerable success in her effort to balance imports and exports. The British hope to earn millions of dollars selling jet and turbopropeller airliners to foreign buyers. British firms are furnishing transformers for the Garrison Dam in North Dakota, the Folsom Dam in California, and a Seattle electric power development. U. S. government financial aid for Britain is now limited to some assistance on the British defense effort.

Despite their improved situation, the British know that they must still be careful. Their well-being is so dependent on foreign trade that it would be easy for a change in unsettled world business conditions to throw them into another slump.

Nevertheless, for the time being, government leaders think Britain's prospects are bright enough that taxes can be reduced and ration restrictions eased. Besides, there is hope that

these new steps may encourage the nation's workers and businessmen to produce even greater quantities of goods, so that British economic conditions will continue to get better.

A major problem still facing Britain is the huge defense burden which she, along with other free nations, must carry. British officials say that if their country could only produce peacetime goods with the resources now going into defense output, she could increase her exports by a fifth.

Britain spends about 10 or 12 per cent of her national income on defense. This is a larger percentage than most of the other North Atlantic Treaty countries devote to that purpose, but smaller than the approximately 16 per cent that our own nation spends. Some Americans accuse the British of doing less than their proper share in the joint effort to defend free nations against Soviet aggression. Britain replies that our national income, per person, is two or three times as large as hers, and therefore that we can afford to spend a larger portion on defense.

There is some friction between the two countries on additional matters. For instance, Britain complains that our tariffs and other import restrictions do her considerable harm. She says these restrictions interfere with her efforts to sell goods in this country and earn the dollars which she needs in order to buy our products. American lawmakers, though, are reluctant to lower our trade barriers. They don't like to expose U. S. producers to increased foreign competition.

Despite such differences, Britain and the United States realize that many of their long-range interests are the same. Queen Elizabeth's homeland is on generally friendly terms with the country which long ago broke away from the empire of her ancestor, George III.



# Historical Backgrounds - - When Social Security Began

**W**E are likely to think of social security programs as something comparatively new. Actually, they were started in Europe several centuries ago.

Early social welfare plans, in the 13th century, were handled by workers and not by governments. Committees collected money from each worker, and often from employers. The money was used to help those who could not work because of accident, sickness, or old age. This type of social welfare was fairly general when goods were made in small shops.

The development of machines in the 18th and 19th centuries brought big factories, crowded cities, and unemployment problems.

Governments began to take a hand in regulating labor and welfare aid in the machine age. England adopted an early labor law in the 1800's to regulate working hours for children. Denmark adopted one of the first national security laws in 1849, directing that every needy citizen be given assistance.

Laws authorizing payments to the disabled and unemployed were developed in later years in Germany, Belgium, France, and other countries. Germany was a leader in providing old-age pensions, although the federal pension scheme did not begin until in the 1900's.

The United States, as a young nation, was somewhat behind the older European countries with social security programs. In 1794, when factories were well established in Europe, most Americans lived from agriculture.

There was plenty of land to provide food for all early Americans who



OLD-AGE PENSIONS are lessening the need for poorhouses

would farm it. A man built a house from logs. He made clothing from the wool of his sheep and shoes from the hides of his cattle. As a general rule, he could retire comfortably with his savings. If not, his sons or other relatives provided him and his wife with a home. He had little cause to call on his government for assistance.

The rapid growth of factories, the coming of the machine age, greatly altered the way of life in this country. As early as 1839, the making of textiles for clothing had been largely transferred from homes to factories. The textiles and other industries drew people in increasing numbers from the farms to the cities to work for wages.

While industrialization speeded the growth and general wealth of the country, it also created problems. Large

numbers of workers came to depend upon a complicated system which, from time to time, got out of order. When depressions overtook the country, many people lost their jobs. Their savings were lost in bank failures, or exhausted by daily expenses. Thousands of city people no longer had the land to supply their needs.

Help for many depression victims was provided in various ways. Church and community charity organizations did a great deal. Towns and cities provided hotels or "lodging houses" for the poor. County governments established farms, known as "poor farms," to house and feed the elderly and the helpless. In general, local communities took care of the needy.

State and national social security programs did not get well under way in this country until this century.

Only eight states—Wisconsin, Nevada, Montana, Colorado, Kentucky, Maryland, Minnesota, and Utah—had authorized counties to pay old-age pensions shortly before the depression of the 1930's.

The hard times of the 1930's created so much distress, however, that the country hastened to adopt both unemployment and old-age pension plans. By 1934 there were 28 states with old-age pension acts. In 1935, the federal government adopted a national system of old-age pensions and unemployment insurance. Congress is now studying the value and the efficiency of the federal assistance program (see story on page 1).

Next Friday is an important anniversary in the history of air mail. It was just 35 years ago—on May 15, 1918—that the Post Office Department began flying mail between New York City and Washington, D. C.

In those early years, the Post Office used Army planes. In New York a pilot slung his mail bag into a plane and took off for Philadelphia. At Washington another pilot headed north. At Philadelphia the two planes met and two other pilots finished the trips.

Through the years, the air mail service grew. Many pilots who later became famous carried the mails. Charles Lindbergh, the first man to fly across the Atlantic alone without stopping, was a flying postman.

As air travel grew popular, the Post Office sent mail bags on regular passenger planes. Today, air mail is on a nation-wide basis.

NOTE TO TEACHERS: Cut along this line if you wish to save the test for later use. This test covers the issues of January 26 to May 4, inclusive. The answer key appears in the May 11 issue of THE CIVIC LEADER. Scoring: If grades are to be calculated on a percentage basis, we suggest that a deduction of 2 points be made for each wrong or omitted answer.

## The American Observer Semester Test

**I. NEWSMAKERS.** For each of the following items, find the picture of the person identified and place the number of that picture on your answer sheet. (There is one picture for which there is no numbered item.)

1. U.S. High Commissioner to Germany.
2. Prime Minister of Israel.
3. Governor of New York.
4. Secretary of Commerce.
5. Russia's new dictator.
6. U. S. Ambassador to Russia.
7. President of Argentina.
8. Secretary-General of the United Nations.

**II. MULTIPLE CHOICE.** In each of the following items, select the correct answer and write its letter on your answer sheet.

9. The proposed Bricker amendment aims to (a) provide for the establishment of a world government; (b) give the President broader treaty-making powers; (c) limit the treaty-making powers of the federal government; (d) make free trade a condition in any treaty signed by the U. S.

10. The U. S. is providing funds to (a) develop American-owned resources in southeast Asia; (b) aid Britain, France, and the Netherlands to regain their former colonies; (c) purchase military supplies for the armies of Mao Tse-tung and Ho Chi Minh; (d) help the native governments of southeast Asia fight communism and economic disaster.

11. President Eisenhower recently stated that (a) the threat of a major war no longer exists; (b) the U. S. is now producing weapons of war faster than at any time during World War II; (c) we and our allies must remain armed, strong, and ready for any risk of war; (d) U. S. defenses are at a disastrously low level.

12. The Constitution provides that treaties become effective upon approval by (a) the Department of State; (b) a majority of both Senate and House of Representatives; (c) two-thirds of the Senate; (d) the President and the Secretary of Defense.

13. The proportion of the U. S. civilian labor force now unionized is about (a) one-fourth; (b) one-tenth; (c) one-half; (d) four-fifths.

14. Africa is sometimes called the "continent of tomorrow" because of its (a) great size and good climate; (b) abundance of natural resources; (c) large and

- highly skilled population; (d) strong opposition to communistic control.

15. President Eisenhower is in favor of turning underseas oil reserves over to the (a) individual states; (b) Navy Department; (c) Department of the Interior; (d) Federal Power Commission.

16. We want Israel to be prosperous and strong for the benefit of her own people and also because (a) we need her oil resources; (b) Israel is a protectorate of the U. S.; (c) we fear Israel is seeking to cooperate with Russia; (d) we hope that Israel may be a partner in the proposed Middle East Defense Group.

17. As a result of the farm price-support program, the federal government has now acquired huge surpluses of (a) fruits and vegetables; (b) wool; (c) cattle feed; (d) dairy products.

18. An effective way for school officials to protect themselves against unjustified attacks is to (a) work with parents and other citizens who want to know what the schools are doing; (b) ignore unfavorable criticisms of the schools; (c) bar the teaching of facts about communism and other controversial issues; (d) refuse to answer the questions of school-investigating groups.

19. Which one of the following items is not a cause of Yugoslavia's present difficulties: (a) droughts and food shortages;

- (b) territorial disputes with Greece and Turkey; (c) disappointing progress on a factory-building program; (d) high prices and low incomes.

20. Red leaders, since their system was first adopted in Russia, have preached that communist goals can best be reached by (a) free elections; (b) passive resistance; (c) free enterprise; (d) revolution.

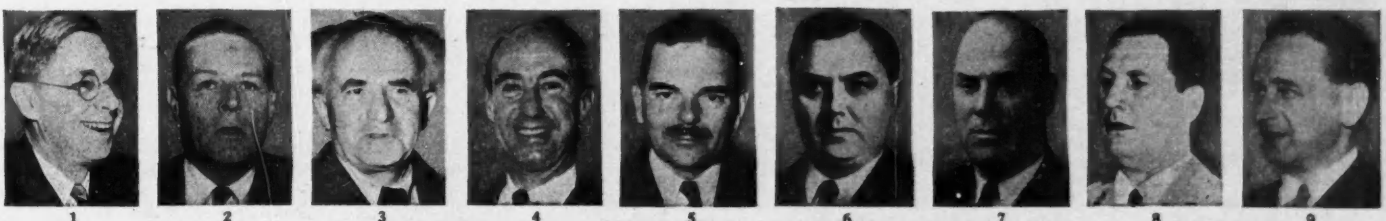
21. The civil service system provides that persons applying for many government jobs must be hired on the basis of (a) merit; (b) political party loyalty; (c) race and nationality; (d) church and community service.

22. Most of the people of Greece and Turkey earn a living by (a) mining; (b) farming; (c) fishing; (d) manufacturing.

23. Civil defense preparation in our country is best described as (a) unnecessary; (b) inadequate; (c) excellent; (d) unwanted.

24. A major cause of dissatisfaction among the people of Czechoslovakia is the (a) failure of the government to communize the land completely; (b) lack of soil and mineral resources; (c) rigid control that Russia imposes; (d) threat of loss of territory to Austria and Hungary.

(Concluded on page 8)



# Careers for Tomorrow

## As a Musician

If you have musical talent you may be faced with this question: "Shall I make music my career?" The decision is a hard one. Success as a concert virtuoso or as a member of a symphony orchestra or dance band has rewards that few other fields offer—fame, perhaps fortune, interesting contacts, and the constant challenge of trying to reach new heights.

These dreams, however, must be tempered by reality. Actually music offers encouraging vocational prospects to only a few exceptionally talented people. Nerve, determination, showmanship, and outstanding musical ability are necessary for success on the concert stage or in an orchestra.

The prospects are just about as discouraging for musicians who want to teach privately. Some teachers attract pupils in bad times as well as in good. Others, apparently as well qualified, have a hard time financially.

The most promising branch of music from the standpoint of a full-time career is that of teaching in the high and elementary schools. Colleges and universities—both public and private—also have places on their faculties for musicians qualified to teach.

If you have musical talent, you should, by now, have acquired considerable skill in singing or in playing an instrument. If you want to become a professional musician, you should continue your training while you are in high school. From high school on your education will depend upon how you want to use your music.

If you are interested in a career on

the concert stage or with a symphony orchestra, you should, very soon, arrange for the one big test which will determine whether or not to go on with serious study—you should arrange to play or sing for a qualified musician in concert or symphony work. A musician who has already reached the top can tell very quickly whether or not your talent is exceptional. Your teacher can probably help you find a musician willing to judge your ability.

If you pass this hurdle and want to do concert work, you must plan to study with private instructors in one of the larger musical centers of the country. To work toward a place in a symphony orchestra, you can study with outstanding private instructors or you can take work at a conservatory or school of music. Right now you can try to join a trio, quartet, or symphony, even though the members are amateurs. Experience in group playing is as important as individual instruction for symphonic players.

There is no set educational pattern to follow in preparing yourself for a place in a dance band. If you are likely to reach a top position in this field, you have probably already begun to develop a distinctive style. You can, if you want, study with private teachers or in school. Your real professional training will begin, though, when you land a place with an orchestra.

The preparation required for teaching follows more orthodox lines. If you want to teach in a public school or in a college or university, you



MUSICIANS must practice many hours, day after day for a number of years, to achieve skill

should study music either at a college or at a conservatory. You may also want to spend a year or so taking private instruction. Formal education is not so essential if you plan to teach privately; but you want to get the best training possible.

The incomes of musicians vary a great deal. Widely known concert artists may receive very high fees for performances. Musicians in orchestras earn from \$50 to \$150 a week. Music teachers in schools make from \$1,800 to \$4,500 a year. The head of the music department in a university may earn \$5,000 or more a year.

A booklet entitled "Occupational Guide, Professional Musicians" can be obtained from the Michigan Unemployment Compensation Commission, Employment Service Division, 7310

Woodward Avenue, Detroit 2, Michigan. The booklet costs 25c. It is chiefly concerned with conditions in Detroit, but would be useful to young musicians everywhere.

Parakeets, the small birds which talk like parrots, are fast becoming popular household pets. A friendly bird, the parakeet likes to make a fuss over people. When it is out of its cage, it will perch on its owner's neck and do tricks which it has been taught. In short, the parakeet is an extremely colorful and interesting bird which adapts itself well in the home.

Only male parakeets talk. They can pick up snatches of conversation and repeat the words. The female just chatters. Are you surprised?

## The American Observer Semester Test

(Concluded from preceding page)

25. An important source of Dutch wealth for more than 300 years was (a) Latin America; (b) territory in central Africa; (c) island possessions off the coast of Asia; (d) colonial lands in North America.

26. The United States (a) buys oil from other countries to meet our needs; (b) produces more oil than we can use; (c) recently cut oil production in half to save our supplies; (d) refuses to buy oil from other lands.

27. The two Czech leaders who helped most to establish a democratic form of government for their country were (a) Klement Gottwald and Antonin Zapotocky; (b) Georgi Malenkov and Rudolf

Slansky; (c) Vladimir Clementi and Marshal Tito; (d) Thomas Masaryk and Eduard Benes.

III. COMPLETION. After the corresponding number on your answer sheet, write the word, name, or phrase that best completes each of the following items.

28. Name the country that controls Russia's water route from the Black Sea to the Mediterranean Sea.

29. Laws and ordinances governing the District of Columbia must be passed by \_\_\_\_\_.

30. The two leading products of Hawaii are sugar and \_\_\_\_\_.

31. Name the sea that separates Yugoslavia and Italy.

32. Name the chief food crop of Burma, Thailand, and Indochina.

33. What nation prevented Czechoslovakia from joining the European Recovery Program in 1947?

34. The tin mines of \_\_\_\_\_ were recently bought from their Dutch owners by the government of this island nation.

35. Name the Ohio senator who is suggesting changes in the labor relations law he helped to draft six years ago.

IV. PLACES IN THE NEWS. Find the location of each of the following places on the adjoining map, and write the number of that location after the proper item number on your answer sheet.

36. Indochinese area most recently to become a victim of communist aggression.

37. The St. Lawrence Seaway would serve this area.

38. Jewish nation formerly known as Palestine.

39. Island territory that may become our 49th state.

40. Panmunjom is located in this divided country.

41. Rich underwater oil deposits are located along the U. S. coast of this gulf.

42. Communist nation unfriendly toward Russia.

43. Headquarters of Chinese Nationalists.

44. U. S. city whose citizens cannot vote.

45. Mrs. Clare Boothe Luce is our new ambassador to this country.

46. Tragic floods damaged this small nation a few months ago.

47. Daniel Malan's Nationalist Party won a sweeping election victory here last month.

48. The United Nations recently ordered Chinese Nationalist troops to leave this land.

49. U. S. territory, located in the Caribbean Sea, which has almost complete independence.

50. Island republic that gained independence from the U. S. in 1946.

